

ABSTRACT

A method of installing a local area network by first determining a local area network to meet specific needs, including server hardware, a network operating system, a disaster recovery plan, an e-mail server, a fax server and modem sharing.

Then proper hub and network cards are determined. Cabling for pre-installing by local wiring contractor is determined. Numbers of workstations to add to the local area network are chosen. Specifications of each workstation, i.e. processor speed, random access memory amount, hard drive size and operating system, are chosen. Software to be pre-installed on each system is specified. User names to the system and indicating level of security users should have on the local area network are assigned. Cost for the system chosen and costs for pre-configuring and fully testing the server and fees for pre-configuring and fully testing the workstations are established. Pre-configuring and fully testing the server. The system is ordered. The server is pre-configured and fully tested. Workstations are pre-configured and fully tested. Workstations and peripherals are fully tested. Workstations and peripherals are connected to the server and tested. Workstations and peripherals are disconnected from the server and workstations, peripherals and server are packed. The packed workstations, peripherals and server are shipped in numbered boxes. A diagram of necessary steps in setting up the local area network is provided, including which items should be pulled out of their boxes first according to the number of the box, how the server should be plugged in, how the workstations should be connected to the server, where each peripheral item including the hub, modems and printers should be placed and how they should be plugged in, when the server, workstations and peripherals should be turned on, testing the login process and insuring all workstations are

pre-configured correctly and including a print out of the users order as a checklist and thereby providing by following the step-by-step instructions, a local area network that is up and running and fully functioning with all included workstations able to access the local area network and peripherals attached to the local area network and all software pre-installed.